

FILED

February 10, 2021

Nathan Ochsner, Clerk of Court

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
GALVESTON DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
vs.  
RICHARD BLAKE HOWARD

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§  
§  
§

CRIMINAL NO. 3:21-cr-3

**CRIMINAL INDICTMENT**

THE GRAND JURY CHARGES THAT:

**INTRODUCTION**

At all times material to this Indictment:

1. The term "minor" is defined, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 2256(1), as "any person under the age of eighteen years."
2. The term "child pornography," for purposes of this Indictment, is defined, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 2256(8)(A), as:

"any visual depiction, including any photograph, film, video, picture, or computer or computer-generated image or picture, whether made or produced by electronic, mechanical, or other means, of sexually explicit conduct, where -

- (A) the production of such visual depiction involves the use of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct."
3. The term "sexually explicit conduct" is defined, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 2256(2)(A), as any:

"actual or simulated -

- (i) sexual intercourse, including genital [to] genital, oral [to] genital, anal [to] genital, or oral [to] anal, whether between persons of the same or opposite sex; [or]
- (ii) bestiality; [or]
- (iii) masturbation; [or]

- (iv) sadistic or masochistic abuse; or
- (v) [the] lascivious exhibition of the anus, genitals or pubic area of any person."

4. The term "computer" is defined, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2256(6) and 1030(e)(1), as any:

"electronic, magnetic, optical, electrochemical, or other high speed data processing device performing logical, arithmetic, or storage functions, and includes any data storage facility or communications facility directly related to or operating in conjunction with such device, but such term does not include an automated typewriter or typesetter, a portable hand held calculator or other similar device."

5. The term "producing", for purposes of this Indictment, is defined, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 2256(3) and case law, as:

"producing, directing, manufacturing, issuing, publishing or advertising" and includes downloading or copying visual depictions from another source.

6. The term "visual depiction" is defined, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 2256(5), as including, but is not limited to, any:

"undeveloped film and videotape, [and] data stored on computer disk or by electronic means which is capable of conversion into a visual image."

**COUNT ONE**  
**(Receipt of Child Pornography)**

On or about March 17, 2019, within the Southern District of Texas, and elsewhere,

**RICHARD BLAKE HOWARD,**

defendant herein, did knowingly receive material that contains child pornography using any means and facility of interstate and foreign commerce.

**In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252A(a)(2)(B) and Section**

**2252A(b)(1).**

**COUNT TWO**  
**(Distribution of Child Pornography)**

On or about July 25, 2015, through and including March 20, 2017, within the Southern District of Texas, and elsewhere,

**RICHARD BLAKE HOWARD,**

defendant herein, did knowingly distribute material that contains child pornography using any means and facility of interstate and foreign commerce.

**In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252A(a)(2)(B) and Section**

**2252A(b)(1).**

**COUNT THREE**  
**(Possession of Child Pornography)**

On or about March 19, 2019, within the Southern District of Texas,

**RICHARD BLAKE HOWARD,**

defendant herein, did knowingly possess material that contained images/videos of child pornography, which had been shipped and transported using any means and facility of interstate and foreign commerce, or which were produced using materials which have been mailed, shipped, and transported in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce, by any means, including by computer, more specifically: a Dell Latitude laptop computer; which contained still images and videos of child pornography.

**In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2252A(a)(5)(B) and 2252A(b)(2).**

**NOTICE OF FORFEITURE**  
**18 U.S.C. § 2253(a)**

Pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 2253(a)(2) and (a)(3), the United States gives the defendant notice that in the event of conviction for the offenses charged in Count One through Count Three of the Indictment, the United States will seek to forfeit all property, real and personal, constituting or traceable to gross profits or other proceeds obtained from the offenses charged in Count One through Count Three; and all property, real and personal, used or intended to be used to commit or to promote the commission of the offenses charged in Count One through Count Three, or any property traceable to such property, including, but not limited to, the following:

Apple iPhone 5 model 1688; and  
a Dell Latitude 3180 laptop computer.

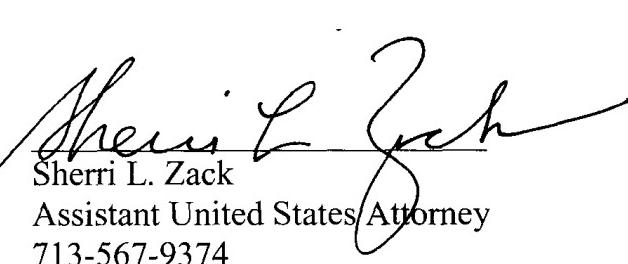
A True Bill:

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Grand Jury Foreperson

RYAN K. PATRICK  
United States Attorney

By:

  
Sherri L. Zack  
Assistant United States Attorney  
713-567-9374